

Message Text

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1178

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US CH TW CB UR PROP

SUBJ: "REFERENCE NEWS" REPORTS ON TAIWAN AND OTHER ISSUES

SUMMARY: THE APRIL 26 ISSUE OF THE PRC'S RESTRICTED DIGEST OF FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS CARRIES ARTICLE ON GOVERNOR REAGON'S COMMENTS IN TAIPEI ON NORMALIZATION, ADMIRAL WEISNER'S COMMENTS ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM TAIWAN, AND LIFE ON QUEMOY ISLAND. PRESS REPORTS ON CAMBODIA, IL'ICHEV'S RETURN TO PEKING, VANCE'S TRIP TO MOSCOW, THE BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY, DEMOCRATIC YEMAN PRIME MINISTER'S CURRENT VISIT TO PEKING AND A "WORLD TODAY" ARTICLE ON POPULATION ARE ALSO INCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE APRIL 26 ISSUE OF "REFERENCE NEWS" CARRIES (ON PAGE FOUR) AN APRIL 9 CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY REPORT ON ADMIRAL WEISNER'S COMMENTS ON NORMALZIATION AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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US COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, ADMIRAL WEISNER SAID THAT THE US-RIC DEFENSE TREATY IS BINDING LIKE ANY OTHER DEFENSE TREATY, THE US WILL NOT SACRIFICE THE TAIWANESE WHEN THE US NORMALIZES RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, AND THE US WILL INSURE THAT SUITABLE MEASURES ARE TAKEN FOR TAIWAN'S FUTURE DEFENSE. ALSO INCLUDED IS AN APRIL 21 UPI REPORT ON FORMER

GOVERNOR REAGON'S COMMENTS IN TAIPEI THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO SEE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AT THE EXPENSE OF "OUR ALLY AND FRIEND" TAIWAN.

3. "REFERENCE NEWS" EXCERPTS AN APRIL 5 ARTICLE FROM A YAMATO SHIMBUN REPORTER ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO QUEMOY. THE REPORT STATES THAT LIFE IN QUEMOY IS QUITE SIMILAR TO LIFE IN THE PRC AND THE PEOPLE HAVE A MUCH LOWER STANDARD OF LIVING THAN THE PEOPLE IN TAIWAN. THE ARTICLE ASSERTS, HOWEVER, THAT THE TAIWAN AUTHORITIES HANDLE THE DISTRIBUTION OF RICE, SO THAT THE PEOPLE ON QUEMOY ARE RELATIVELY WELL OFF. MILITARY DEFENSES ON THE ISLAND ARE WELL-HIDDEN. THE ROC USES THE ISLAND AS A PROPAGANDA BASE, BROADCASTING TO THE MAINLAND, BUT IT IS ALSO A FORWARD BASE TO BE USED IN AN ATTACK ON THE MAINLAND. THE ISLAND IS BEAUTIFUL BUT PERHAPS ONE DAY "IT WILL BE DYED BY THE BLOOD OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE."

4. ALSO INCLUDED ARE PRESS REPORTS OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER'S IL'ICHEV'S RETURN TO PEKING TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER, DEMOCRATIC YEMEN PRIME MINISTER ALI NASSER'S CURRENT VISIT TO CHINA, THE SCHMIDT-CALLAHAN TALKS IN LONDON, VANCE'S TRIP TO MOSCOW, AND THE BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

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5. OF PARTICULAR NOTE ARE AFP AND JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS (ON PAGE THREE) CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. THE ARTICLES NOTE THAT AFTER THREE YEARS, CAMBODIA IS STARTING TO OPEN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THEY DESCRIBE PHNOM PENH AS A VILLAGE WITH ONLY 20,000 PEOPLE, NO TELEPHONES, NO POST OFFICES AND NO CURRENCY. THE REPORTS ASSERT THAT CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT IS CHANGING FROM ITS EMPHASIS ON ASKING THE PEOPLE FOR STRICT SELF-SACRIFICE TO A STYLE OF RULE MORE SENSITIVE TO SATISFYING THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

6. THE LAST PAGE CONTAINS LENGTHY EXCERPTS FROM THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE ICA PUBLICATION "TODAY'S WORLD" ON A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH WORLD BANK PRESIDENT ROBERT MACNAMARA ON THE WORLD POPULATION PROBLEM.

7. COPIES POUCHED TO HONG KONG AND THE DEPARTMENT. WOODCOCK

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